

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sterilizing objects by low-pressure plasma, said apparatus comprising:

an evacuable chamber for retaining said objects, a gas conduit for delivering gas to be ionized to said evacuable chamber; and

a high frequency transmitting device including an antenna system for inductive generation of an alternative current plasma in said evacuable chamber, said antenna system comprising two plasma generating coils spread apart from each other,

wherein a distance between the plasma generating coils corresponds to an average diameter of said coils.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the plasma generating coils are located in the area of two opposing border walls of the evacuable chamber.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 ~~claims 1~~, wherein a distance between the plasma generating coils exceeds an extension of the objects to be sterilized.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 ~~claims 1~~, wherein both plasma generating coils are connected to a common high-frequency generator.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[2]] 6, wherein the plasma generating coils are located in the area of two opposing border walls of the evacuable chamber.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 ~~claims 2~~, wherein a distance between the plasma generating coils exceeds an extension of the objects to be sterilized.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8 ~~claims 3~~, wherein a distance between the plasma generating coils exceeds an extension of the objects to be sterilized.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6 ~~claims 2~~, wherein both plasma generating coils are connected to a common high-frequency generator.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8 ~~claims 3~~, wherein both plasma generating coils are connected to a common high-frequency generator.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9 ~~claims 4~~, wherein both plasma generating coils are connected to a common high-frequency generator.

17. (Currently Amended) A sterilizer comprising:
an evacuable chamber; and
two plasma generating coils spread apart by a predetermined distance for inductively generating an alternating current plasma,
wherein a distance between the plasma generating coils corresponds to an average diameter of said coils.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the plasma generating coils are located in the area of two opposing border walls of the evacuable chamber.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claims 17, wherein a the predetermined distance between the plasma generating coils exceeds an extension of the objects to be sterilized.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claims 17, wherein both plasma generating coils are connected to a common high-frequency generator.